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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, OCTOBER 10, 2001

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, ex rel.

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

CASE NO. PUC000020

Ex Parte: In re: Investigation
of area code relief for the 757
Numbering Plan Area

ORDER TAKING REPORT OF CHIEF
HEARING EXAMINER UNDER ADVISEMENT
AND POSTPONING AREA CODE RELIEF

On January 24, 2000, the North American Numbering Plan Administrator ("NANPA"),¹ reported a projected exhaust of Central Office ("CO") codes in the 757 Numbering Plan Area ("NPA") during the first quarter of 2002.

On March 30, 2000, the NANPA, by counsel, filed notice with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") of the industry's consensus decision to implement an all-services distributed overlay relief plan for the 757 NPA beginning September 15, 2000.

On April 12, 2000, the Commission assumed jurisdiction in this matter and assigned this case to a Hearing Examiner.²

¹ NANPA is acting as a neutral third-party NPA Relief Planner for Virginia under the North American Numbering Plan.

² Order Assuming Jurisdiction and Assigning Hearing Examiner, Case No. PUC000020, issued April 12, 2000.

Following publication of notice, public hearings were convened in Chesapeake on July 24, 2000; Accomack on July 25, 2000; Courtland on July 27, 2000; and in Williamsburg on July 31, 2000. A final evidentiary hearing was convened on September 13, 2000, in the hearing room of the Commission in Richmond, Virginia. Appearing in the final hearing were Verizon Virginia Inc. ("Verizon Virginia"), Verizon South Inc. ("Verizon South"), NeuStar, Inc., acting as the NANPA, Cox Virginia Telecom, Inc. ("Cox"), and Verizon Wireless. Following receipt of post-hearing comments by the parties, the Report of Deborah V. Ellenberg, Chief Hearing Examiner ("Hearing Examiner's Report") was filed on April 10, 2001. Comments to the Hearing Examiner's Report were timely filed by Cox, Verizon Virginia and Verizon South, and the Virginia Cable Telecommunications Association. Pursuant to the recommendation in the Hearing Examiner's Report, the Staff Report of R. Chris Harris was filed on July 5, 2001. This report included the Staff's analysis of the 757 NPA code utilization and industry forecasts to provide the most current projected date for area code exhaust. Also considered in the Staff Report is the impact of thousand block number pooling, which is scheduled to be implemented in the 757 NPA on October 12, 2001.³

³ See Order Implementing Number Pooling in the 757 and 540 Area Codes issued March 27, 2001, Case No. PUC000304.

The Staff now projects that exhaust should not occur before the beginning of the first quarter of 2004. The Hearing Examiner recommended that the Commission could delay setting a mandatory implementation date for NPA relief until such time as the exhaust is determined to be imminent. Allowing sufficient time for customer notice and implementation, the Commission considers exhaust to be imminent one year prior to the projected exhaust date.

The Commission accepts as reasonable the Staff's projected exhaust date of the first quarter of 2004. We find no compelling reason to order specific NPA relief at this time. We further find that the Commission's Staff should continue to monitor CO code assignments in the 757 NPA and the number conservation measures of thousand block assignments and number pooling to report any significant change in the projected exhaust date. The Commission takes the Hearing Examiner's Report under advisement and will issue a further order at the appropriate time.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) The Division of Communications is directed to continue monitoring the 757 NPA and report any significant changes in the projected exhaust date.

(2) This matter is continued until further order, consistent with the findings above.